THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) As per available information, the Government of Kerala have so far submitted three Memoranda seeking drought relief assistance. The first two Memoranda seeking release of funds from NCCF have already been disposed off. In its third Memorandum of July, 2004 Government of Kerala has demanded Rs. 3847 crores from various sources for "revival of the agriculture sector" as an aftermath of the successive droughts. A Multi-Disciplinary Central Team was dispatched to visit Kerala in August, 2004 which has submitted its recommendations and are receiving attention of the Government.

Zero field from NDU-1 Urad Seeds

184. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 5,000 farmers across Uttar Pradesh were supplied the wrong urad seeds for sowing earlier this year;

(b) whether all the farmers who sowed that seed called NDU-1 variety got zero yield;

(c) whether the urad seeds for the Kharif crop were supplied to farmers as Zayad seeds;

(d) if so, whether Government have done any investigations in this regard; and

(e) if so, whether the affected farmers would be given any compensation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No wrong seed has been supplied to farmers as reported by the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Few farmers of Hardoi, Barabanki and Rai Bareilly districts reported that inspite of good germination and growth, the plants did not bear flowers and pods.

(c) NDU-1 is a State variety of Urad recommended for Kharif as well as for Zayad as per the information supplied by the State Government.

(d) State Government has got the enquiry conducted and it is found that no wrong seeds were supplied to farmers, however, in some cases as mentioned in answer to part (b) plants did not bear flowers and pods due to non compliance of package and practices, untimely rainfall and no care to prevent Thrip insects.

(e) Question does not arise as no wrong seeds have been supplied.

Promoting Organic Seeds of Rajasthan

185. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jhunjhunu District in Rajasthan will now showcase its completely organic lentils, tulsi and peas in food shelves across the West;

(b) whether it is a fact that these opportunities are opened up for the farmers of the State, as the international agency SGS has inspected, tested and certified them as organic products; and

(c) if so, how the Ministry proposes to promote organic farming on a much large scale across India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No specific information is available with the Government in this regard. However, many farmers and non-Governmental agencies are engaged in the production, promotion and market development of organic produce of different crops and its certification by the approved certification cum inspection agencies.

(c) The Government has recently approved a new Central Sector Plan Scheme, National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) for implementation during the remaining period of Tenth Plan on pilot basis with an outlay of Rs. 57.05 crores for production, promotion, certification and market development of organic farming in the country.